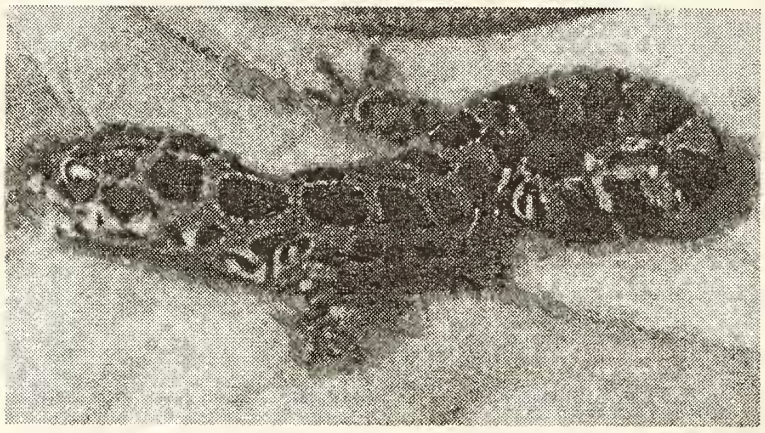

Fig. 1. Spotted forest Gecko *Geckoella collegalensis* from Gir Forest, Sasan

cylindrical, last two distal phalanges compressed and angularly bent. Hind limbs just reach the axilla (BNHS, Regn No. 1434).

Supra labials 12, lower labial 9, posterior labials smaller and granules near the jaw angle. A pair of large postmental scales. Enlarged dorsal tubercle absent, belly with rounded imbricate scales. Tail scales larger than the dorsal and belly scales.

Body colour light grey with large rounded black-edged brown spots from head to tail, in paired row, lateral spots are small. Limbs are dark brown, marbled markings. Lower jaw and throat white with brown dots. Belly white coloured and tail with dark brown bands.

According to Smith (FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, 1935-1938, Vol. II) *G. collegalensis* is found on the hills of southern India and Sri Lanka at low elevations, while Sekar (*Hornbill* 1994 No. 4) reported from Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai, Maharashtra, the range extension of the species, upto the northern end of Western Ghats. The present record, a first report of *G. collegalensis* from Gir Forest, shows further range extension of this species.

September 16, 1997

RAJU VYAS
*Sayaji Baug Zoo,*
*Vadodara 390 018.*
*Gujarat, India.*

## 20. INANIMATE FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF TUCKTOO *GECKO GECKO* LINN.

The tucktoo is the largest among geckos and the common house gecko of southeast Asia, found in India only in Bihar, Bengal and Assam (Daniel 1983). This lizard is, however, found in Mizoram in towns like Aizawl, Champhai, Serchhip, Kolasib, Vairangte, Lunglei and Lawngtlai. Mizos believe that the houses which harbour tucktoo, locally called as "ok..ok.." are lucky (Harit and Harit 1966). In Mizoram they are generally found in houses made of bamboo or Assam type houses made of asbestos tiles (Harit 1996). In concrete houses tucktoo is uncomon due to lack of hiding places. The literature on this gecko is meagre. McCann (1940) reported on its colouring, habitat and voice. Whitaker and Whitaker (1979) have described its breeding.

In the month of July 1997 I was discussing lizards with one of my friends. He told me that one midnight he heard a sound like *khat... khat...* many times and when he got up he found that it was a tucktoo, holding one of the many plastic toy fish hanging on the wall of the sitting room, and battering it against the wall. The wall was a plywood partition of the sitting room. The toy fish was nearly 3 cm long and 1.5 cm in width, and all the toys were joined together by a strong thread. On seeing my friend the gecko left the toy fish and went to its hideout. Then he heard some sound from the water heater which he had forgotten to switch off when he went to sleep, as the electricity had gone off. The whole bucket of water had nearly evaporated due to the long time the water heater was inside. The water heater was switched off.

My friend concluded that it was the 'ok' that had saved them, otherwise there would have been an electric short circuit or fire, and hence they were lucky to have 'ok' in their house. Such is the faith of the Mizos.

Lizards are generally found to feed on live and walking insects. Dead insects under experimental conditions are not touched. Cases of ejection of some distasteful insects (?) accidentally hunted and taken into the mouth has been observed in *Hemidactylus flaviviridus* at Kolasib (Mizoram) by me.

The above mentioned incident of the tucktoo trying to feed on an inanimate object indicates that probably the lizard is not able to recognise whether its prey is dead or alive and is possibly stimulated only by the movement of the likely prey. Secondly, the continuous battering of the toy fish also indicates that the lizard was not able to test the taste of the prey.

This type of inanimate feeding behaviour of tucktoo is very peculiar and unusual and hence worthy of record.

November 10, 1997 D.N. HARIT
*Department of Zoology,*
*Government Kolasib College,*
*Kolasib, Aizawl 796 081,*
*Mizoram, India.*

## REFERENCES

DANIEL, J.C. (1983): The book of Indian Reptiles, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.

HARIT, D.N. & D.K. HARIT (1996): Indigneous method of translocation of the Tucktoo *Gecko gecko* Linn. as practised in Mizoram, India, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc, 93(2)*: 302.

HARIT, D.N. (1996): Report on Lacertilian fauna of Kolasib of Mizoram, India. Himalayan Journal of environment and Zoology Vol. 10 (2): 93-94.

MCCANN, C (1940): A reptile and amphibian miscellany, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 41*: 742-764.

WHITAKER, R. & Z. WHITAKER (1979): Breeding of Tokay gecko, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 75*: 499.

## 21. NEW LOCALITY OF THE KOYNA TOAD, *BUFO KOYNAYENSIS* (AMPHIBIA)

The Koyna toad, *Bufo koynayensis* (Amphibia) Soman 1963, was described by Soman in 1963 from Humbali village, Shivaji Sagar lake at Koyna, Satara dist., Maharashtra at about 1300 m (Frost, 1985). One more toad species was also described from the same locality as *Bufo koynayensis,* namely *Bufo sulphureus* by Grandison and Daniel (1964). As the morphological features of *Bufo sulphureus* were similar to *Bufo koynayensis,* the former was synonymised with the latter (Dutta, 1992). The distribution of the Koyna toad was known only from the type locality (Frost, 1985).

In August 1995, during a survey of amphibia along the Western Ghats in southern Maharashtra, three adults and some juveniles of *Bufo koynayensis* were collected at the forests of Amboli ghats (15° 52' N, 73° 56' E), at 750 m elevation, in Savantwadi taluka, Sindhudurg dist. Collection data and morphometric details are as follows:

**Materials**: 3 exp. (2 females, 1 unsexed); BNHS Regn No. 3018, 3019 & 3037; Amboli (alt. 750 m); 25.viii.95 & 26.viii.96; Coll. Aloysius G. Sekar and V.M. Hegde.

**Measurements**: Snout-vent length of females 31.0-32.0 mm; head length 8.75-9.75 mm; head width 11.05-11.95 mm; tibia length 10.5-11.95 mm; snout-vent length of unsexed specimen 27.6 mm; head length 8.2 mm; head width 10.45 mm; Tibia length 10.3 mm.

The other morphological characters perfectly match the description of *Bufo sulphureus* (Grandison and Daniel, 1964). However, the colouring of the toads in the present collection slightly differs from that of the earlier description. The dorsal surface of the adult was described as yellowish brown and marbled with grey on the flanks, whereas the toadlets were greenish brown on dorsal side and could be distinguished immediately from the blackish brown toadlets of the common toad, *Bufo*